



RECEIVED
JAN 06 2004
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

In the Specification

A further object of the present invention is the provision of a cutting or trimming knife which can be easily and rapidly transferred from a first position to be movable in one lateral direction during one trimming or cutting-~~cut~~ motion, to a second position movable in another lateral direction during another trimming or cutting-~~cut~~ motion.

A further object of the present invention is the provision of a cutting or trimming knife that will not dull as quickly due to full use of the length of the knife edge.

A further object of the present invention is the provision of a bi-directional cutting or trimming knife which is economical to manufacture, durable in use, and efficient in operation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The foregoing objects may be achieved by an apparatus for trimming or cutting a stack of sheet members having edges to be trimmed and being supported on a cutting table. The apparatus includes an elongated knife having a cutting edge extending along the cutting axis of the knife. A knife supporting frame is connected to the cutting table and a guide mechanism mounts the knife to the supporting frame for movement of the knife from a start position wherein the knife is positioned spaced from the cutting table and the sheet members to a cut position wherein the knife moves towards the cutting table and cuts or trims the stack of sheet members. ~~The~~ At least a portion of the guide mechanism is movable on the frame to a first guide position causing the knife to move in a first direction relative to the cutting edge axis when moving from its starting position to its cut position. ~~The~~ At least a portion of the guide mechanism is movable on the frame to a second guide position causing the knife to move in a

second direction opposite from the first direction when moving from its start position to its cut position.

6 The guide mechanism may ~~be~~ include a linkage which pivots during movement of the knife between its start and cut positions. However other guide mechanisms can also be used such as slots in plates for guiding the knife. Other mechanisms also may be used for guiding the knife bi-directionally.
